

f

Buxton
United Reformed Church
Hardwick Square East



“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.”

July & August 2011

Dear Friends,

This week seems to have been very much up and down. For me, it started with the joyous occasion of my niece's christening but now, as I'm writing this piece, I'm trying to absorb the news of our friend Alick Macdonald's death. These both bring to mind thoughts about changes and events that we know will happen but that can take us by surprise even so.

At the christening party, I got chatting with the godmother of one of my nephews who I had last met at his christening five years ago. Trying to remember what she knew about me and my other half, she asked if we were still living at opposite ends of the country. I was so surprised by this remark that I thought she'd got me confused with someone else as, after four years of marriage (and living in the same town at last!), I had forgotten that her picture of me was frozen at the point we had last met. Sometimes people have similar ideas about the church – the last time they came to church they found it dull or irritating or intolerant and that is still their picture of what goes on. As a congregation, we've been considering recently how we might take part in the URC's new marketing campaign, aimed at reaching those who have been put off church in the past – people who may have old or outdated notions of how to be a worshipping Christian. I recently read an interview with Terry Deary, the author of the Horrible Histories books, in which he said he thought schools should be banned, based entirely on his bad experiences as a child. It provoked a flurry of letters suggesting that it was unlikely Mr Deary had been to many schools recently and seen how things have changed since his 1950s education. Of course, there are still children and

teenagers today who are not fulfilling their potential in the education system so we shouldn't fool ourselves that everything is perfect, just as not every church is as welcoming or tolerant as we would want them to be, but let's shout about how things have changed.



Also at the christening, I made the clichéd remark about some child or other that he so was so tall now – even though I know that “Children grow” I am always taken by surprise that someone who started out as a crying bundle should now be making conversation and shepherding their little brothers or sisters around. Similarly, whenever I hear of about the death of someone I know, I am always taken by surprise, even if the person was ill or very old, as if it was the last thing I expected. As Christians, we know they are not lost to us forever and, in theory, this should lessen the pain and anger but we feel upset that the person has been taken away from us. These things often bring great changes and we can never go back to how we were before – each person's company influences our lives, whether for five years or fifty years, and will influence us until we meet in heaven.

Love,

Martha

(Martha Lawrence is one of the Elders of Buxton URC)

Alick Macdonald

Thank you so much for all the love, prayers, cards & letters (over 100), flowers, text messages, emails and visits given to me since Alick died. It was great support at a time when I needed it.

I am very thankful that Alick needed no chemo, no home nursing, no hospice and was only in pain when he moved. When the cancer affected the condition of his blood, he just went to sleep.

We've had a wonderful life together.

We are going to have a service for the celebration of his life on August 20th at 2.00pm followed by a buffet in The Buckingham Hotel. All are welcome to come to the service and the buffet but please let me know for catering purposes.

Mary

Please Pray:-

- For Mary Macdonald and family as they come to terms with Alick's death.
- For the plans of Roger and Di Horne going to The Maasai Rescue Centre in Kenya from 30th July to 13th Aug.
- For the 8 young people and 5 leaders who will be going to Greenbelt at the end of August.
- Edith Oulton will celebrate her 90th birthday on August 1st. Congratulations Edith! We wish you a very happy birthday.
- For Peter, Tracey and all the family in the new phase of their lives.



Dates for your diary

Come and join in the buffet lunch!

Sunday 10th July after the morning service.

*We will be celebrating
Peter and Tracey's time
at Buxton and Tideswell
with a buffet lunch.*



Peter's final service with the Joint Pastorate before he starts his new role as Moderator of the East Midland Synod on September 1st will be at the **Fountain Square Church in Tideswell on Sunday July 17th at 10:30 a.m.**

The Induction of the Revd Peter Meek
as Moderator of East Midlands Synod will take place at Sherwood
URC, Nottinghamshire on
SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER at 2.30pm.

Dates To Remember

Lunch Club

Thursday 14th July & 1st September
at 1pm in the church hall

Church Meeting

Sunday 24th July
after the morning service (12 noon approx.)

Prayer & Reflection Meetings

Alternate Mondays at 7:30 pm
July 18th at 7 Wyedale Close
No meetings in August

Home group

Alternate Mondays at 7:30 pm
July 11th & 25th at 31 Temple Road
No meetings in August

Elders meetings

Wednesday 27th July
at 7:30 pm at 7 Wyedale Close

Contributions for the magazine

to be received by
Eileen and Peter Blane by
29th August
for the September publication.



*We appreciate your contributions so please keep them coming.
To ensure your magazine is as informative as possible please keep us up-to-date
with news and events. Tel: 01298 27591 or email peter@blane.co.uk*

**Please also remember to send details of meetings and events to
Alison Darby to collate in the church diary.**

Sunday Services

10:30 a.m.

3rd July	Communion Service – Peter Meek
10th July	Morning worship – Peter Meek
17th July	Morning Worship – Charles Jolly
24th July	Parade Service – Charles Jolly
31st July	Morning worship – Audrey Getliffe
7th August	Communion Service – Barbara Aspinall (URC lay preacher)
14th August	Morning worship – Rob Williams
21st August	Morning worship – Charles Jolly
28th August	No service at our church

The Maasai Rescue Centre, Kenya

After attending an orientation day in Luton (on our way to Plymouth – I know Luton is really not the route to choose for visiting the West Country!) Roger and I have learnt a little more about the project we will be joining at the end of July.

However, before I go into more details and ask for more help from you – Roger and I would just like to say

Thank You

To all of you who have donated most generously to this project and for attending our Cream Tea at the beginning of June. It was a good afternoon and we raised £240. This money will go specifically for the building materials we will be using on the project.

During our orientation day, we met our fellow team members, there are 12 of us altogether and the age ranges from 16 to 70s. And our abilities of building work range from nil to one retired builder, with a couple of architects thrown into the mix for good measure.

However, although our prime objective is to build part of the rescue centre (the matron accommodation and one dormitory for 24 girls), we will also be visiting and working with other partners and projects:

- **The Jesus Gospel Power Ministries** who provide clothing, food for the ever-increasing street children in Narok. We will be helping to clean the streets where the children live.
- **Bomet Hostel for Physical Handicapped children** – polio is still rife in this area of Africa. This Catholic hostel provides both a home and education for children. During our visit we will play, encourage and have fun with them.
- **CMF Community Health Partners** – This is a community clinic that trains Healthcare Workers to help with those with HIV/AIDS. Providing Home Based Care to those who are too sick to attend the clinic for medication, education and support. We will join the Home Based Care team and help show the love of God in action to the most needy in the community.
- We will also be visiting an isolated village that at present has no water supply nearby and all the water is carried from a distant and unreliable water source by the children. We will put in a hand bored well for them. We will also play with the children and take them clothes, books and games.

So there we are – I think our time will be pretty full, but we do have one night in the National Park!! (to see a few lions etc..)

We have a huge luggage allowance and this is where we are appealing to you to help us fill our suitcases with items of clothing and other goods that are so desperately needed.

We are placing under the piano in the hall (or in the vicinity) a large plastic container for any donations. Our appeal is for the following items:

Arts & Craft Items	Books	Pencils	English reading story books
Plasters	Bandages	Wound Disinfectant	Antiseptic cream
Dolls	Cars (toy ones!)	beads	Toys / games for children
Balloons	Bubbles	Skipping ropes	Balls
Football gear for boys from 11 - 16	<i>Please place any donations in the container – Thank you.</i>		

Any of these items would be gratefully received – if you are unsure whether your donation would be suitable please ask either Roger or myself. We will also accept money donations and you can specify what we spend it on, either building materials, or any of the above.



And finally, we would ask for your prayers – not only whilst we are away but also during our preparation time. We also ask that for your prayers not only for ourselves but also the whole team, our project partners, the project itself and those we will be meeting.

So thank you for reading this farIt is all very exciting and daunting at the same time so your prayers would be much appreciated.

Di and Roger (Horne)

An African Creed

"We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. He created man and wanted man to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the earth. We have known this High God in the darkness, and now we know him in the light. God promised in the book of his word, the bible, that he would save the world and all the nations and tribes.

"We believe that God made good his promise by sending his son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing that the meaning of religion is love. He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, he rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.



"We believe that our sins are forgiven through him. All who have faith in him must be sorry for their sins, be baptised in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love and share the bread together in love, to announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again. We are waiting for him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe.

"Amen."

*- derived by Fr. Vincent Donovan, following
17 years' missionary work with the Maasai.*

Sunday Worship
Family Service 10.30 a.m.

Communion Service (1st Sunday of each month)

*We offer a sincere, loving welcome to all in
Christian Worship*

Minister: Revd. Peter J Meek BSc. BD
(Tel: 01298 27638)

Secretary: Alison Darby
(Tel: 01298 26260)

Web site: www.buxtonurc.org.uk

Weekly Activities for Children and Young People

- **Rainbows:** Tues. 5 - 6pm
Leader: Stephanie Sterndale
(Mobile Tel No: 07967205209)
- **Brownies:** Tues. 6 – 7:15pm
Leader: Tracy Ryde
(Tel: 01298 79714)
- **Guides:** Tues. 6pm
Leader: Stephanie Sterndale
(Mobile Tel No: 07967205209)
- **Pilots:** Thurs. 6:30 - 8pm
Leader: Di Horne
(Tel: 01298 83328)

Other Activities

- **Home Group and Prayer & Reflection – alternate Mondays**
- **Lunch Club – 1st Thursday**